

LAKE ALEXANDER PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

From President Dr. Bill's Desk

June 2015

Dear LAPOA Members,

Here it is the 1st of June, and we've surpassed ice out of April 11 or 12, and opening of fishing, which was on the cool side—I would suggest May was a pretty wet one, and water levels have certainly come up. As opposed to last year, the year of the bog, we haven't had nearly the same numbers, in fact, there is one (or two) that I'm aware of, but let's not count all of our blessings regarding bogs just yet... But again, the Lake Improvement District, who has taken care of the bogs, is already alert to the issue and will continue to monitor (and provide the support to...) the bog situation!

As opposed to last winter with lots of snow and cold, we basically had little to no snow after November, however, January and February were quite cold, and I know many people (including me...) had frozen septic systems and drain fields to contend with. I think many of you would agree if it isn't one thing it's another, and unfortunately this year it was also widespread ice heaving in many places around the lake and around the region. I feel for all of you, but I too was not immune from such damage, and had major issues with my boat house to deal with. But it seems summer is slowly creeping in, so we look forward to seeing all of you, our summer guests, returning to the Lake. And, please make note: **our annual meeting is set to occur in combination with the Lake**

Alexander Lake Improvement District meeting, on Saturday, July 18. Please mark that date on your calendars and look for more information in the newsletter. Also, our website address is at minnesotawaters.org where you should click on the link on the left to Lakes and River Groups, and then click on page 10 for Lake Alexander Property Owners Association.

One final important note, our longstanding Treasurer, Margaret Flolid, has stepped down after many years of steadfast duty to the Lake Alexander Property Owners Association; so I know I speak on behalf of the entire Board and Members when I say a **HUGE THANKS** to Margaret for your loyal dedication to the group, and good luck in "retirement"! In Margaret's absence, Alice Sunde has agreed to take over as Interim Treasurer until our annual meeting, so thanks to Alice as well! And with that, I would like to conclude this 2015 President's Spring Newsletter. I look forward to seeing many of you around the lake this summer and at the annual meeting on July 18. And in closing, since we continue to be member driven, please share your thoughts with an LAPOA Board member, and thank you for your continued support of the Lake Alexander Property Owners Association!!

Enjoy your summer,

Dr. Bill Faber, President

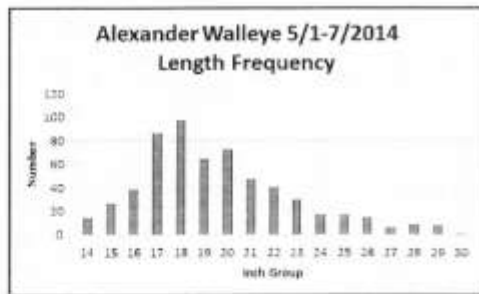
LAKE ALEXANDER PROPERTY OWNERS BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Bill Faber575-2328
Margaret Flolid575-2470 or 632-4451
Darline Molde575-2200
Bob Andersen575-2178 or (952) 903-0005
Chuck Schiemo575-3169

Dave Schleichert575-3153
Matt Skjonsby575-2961
Alice Sunde575-2214
Tom Trutwin575-3302

Mission Statement: To act as stewards of Lake Alexander in regards to water quality, fish management, and shore line conservation.

Species	Number
black bullhead	1
black crappie	161
bluegill	83
bowfin (dogfish)	9
common carp	1
hybrid sunfish	16
largemouth bass	10
muskellunge	48
northern pike	375
pumpkinseed	18
rock bass	31
smallmouth bass	1
walleye	595
white sucker	35
yellow perch	16



DNR Fisheries Report

Eric Altena, DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor, stated that there will be no netting or electrofishing this spring. The DNR, however, will be conducting an annual fish lake assessment this fall. The fish numbers are up and, in general, very good as the numbers in the graph to the left state.

The walleye fry stocking policy has changed from the past years. Walleye fry will be stocked every year, but alternating the numbers every other year (1.25M, 2.5M fry) vs stocking 2 out of 3 years. This is a positive move: 1.25M fry this year (stocking was done May 11th), and in 2016 2.5M will be stocked. *Lake Alexander DNR website* <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id+49007900>

Species	Min - inch	Av - inch	Max - inch
black crappie	4.8	11.0	14.8
bluegill	4.1	6.8	8.6
muskellunge	35.3	43.7	51.5
northern pike	13.2	20.4	34.4
walleye	13.8	19.5	29.7

Quad Lakes Group

Formation of a LID, control of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and costs associated with the control of AIS. Inspection and cleaning stations to combat AIS at public landing, septic system inspections and funding that might be available for these projects.

This is why a new alliance, the Quad Lakes Group, was formed last year to bring together members of LID's and lake owners associations. Board members from Crookneck, Shamineau, Fish Trap and Alexander, have met to discuss common issues and problems they have concerning our lakes. This group has also met with representatives from the Legacy Foundation which provides funding for new methods to control AIS.

Present and future funding from the State of Minnesota, thru Morrison County will bring AIS prevention projects to our lakes, along with input from the Quad Lakes Group can help administer these funds.

Do you have ideas that can help with the control of AIS, or other issues you feel will benefit our lakes. If so, contact your board members and working together we can help prevent the spread of AIS in our lakes.

Chuck Schiemo, LAPOA Board Member

Classic Boats on Lake Alex

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, September 22nd. On that day The Antique & Classic Boat Society will have a boat tour on our beautiful lake. They are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. Most of their activities are taking place on Gull Lake either at Maddens or Bar Harbor. However, on Tuesday, the Bob Speltz Land O Lakes Chapter of the Society is sponsoring a tour on our lake. Sighting our scenic clear-water and significantly undeveloped shoreline which should provide dazzling fall color they chose our lake. They should arrive at our boat landings around 11:00 a.m. for a boat tour of Lake Alexander and lunch at The Landing Restaurant. All the classic and antique boats should be a lot of fun to watch. If you are here at the lake on that day please give them all a warm welcome.

Morrison County Questions

Can I fill wetlands?

The Zoning Office has no wetland authority. To find out if wetlands can be filled one would need to contact the Morrison County Soil and Water District. Phone: 320-616-2479 ext. 101

How do I know if I have wetlands on my property?

Contact the Morrison County Soil and Water district for wetland information.

Do I need a permit to build or replace a deck?

Yes, permits are required.

Do I need a permit to re-shingle a house or install new windows or new siding?

A permit is not required to do nonstructural maintenance to the building. New siding, windows and shingles would be considered nonstructural maintenance.

How long are septic certifications valid?

Septic installations are good for five years (New Systems) and compliance inspections are good for three years.

How often should a septic tank be pumped?

How often you have the tank pumped is dependent on how much it is used. A good rule of thumb would be to have the tank pumped at least every three years. If there is heavy use then every other year.

Who can inspect, design or install my septic system?

Anyone who is licensed by the State of Minnesota to inspect, install or design septic systems. A list of licensed contractors can be found at the Morrison County offices. Also, on line at www.co.morrison.mn.us, under the Planning and Zoning link.

Spring 2015 LID Update –

Last year the Lake Alexander Lake Improvement District (LALID) contracted to treat 33.5 acres for Curly Leaf Pondweed and 51.5 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil spending over thirty-six thousand dollars for invasive weeds and practically the same amount for floating bog control. We were very grateful for the ten thousand dollar donation from the Lake Alexander Property Owners Association to help offset these increased expenses. For 2015 we have now budgeted fifty thousand for weed control and the same amount for bog controls. We still continue to receive a DNR grant—\$100 per acre of treated Minnesota lake, so \$8,500 last year. We also began banking with interest being paid on our checking account balance – generally about an extra ten bucks each month.

This year's early ice out (yes before Walleye Fishing Opener & Mother's Day) provided us with the opportunity for our vendor Lake Restoration Inc. to begin the DNR permitted Spring treatment for Curly Leaf Pondweed. The same acreage was again treated this year which has been proven in the past to effectively knock down and eventually out these patches. Once

the lake water warms up further treatment for Eurasian Water Milfoil. The last few years we have been fairly successful managing invasive weeds – part of this strategy includes treating starting 50' out from the shoreline for the next 100' out which shall again be utilized in specified treatment areas according to public notices unless the property owner opts out with proper due notification. This same vendor also optionally offers three submerged weed & algae control treatment packages plus a swimmers itch control option all within the first 50' of lake under a separate private contract which also includes the required DNR Permit and Processing fee.

Although some Minnesota lakes also have to deal with invasive zebra mussels we have not had this issue to date.

The board encourages your attendance and public input at the annual meeting on Saturday morning July 19, 2015 at the Scandia Valley Township Hall – hope to see you there!

Ron Wieber
LID Treasurer

Lake Level

The lake level was just short of the all time high last spring. I measured 3.28 ft. at the outlet in late May of 2014. This past winter, we had very little snow causing the lake level to go down. The lack of snow and cold also forced many property owners to deal with frozen drain fields and shoreline damage. The ice was all gone by April 12th this year, compared to approx. May 2nd in 2014, so hopefully, we have about 3 weeks extra to enjoy the lake. I checked the lake level at the outlet on

March 22nd and found it was 2.16 ft. We received a lot of rain in May and by May 27th the lake level at the outlet was back up to 2.66 ft. or about 7 inches lower than last year at the same time. Fortunately we have seen very few bogs this year compared to last year. The size of the bogs this year has been relatively "small" compared to last year. I hope you all have a great summer.

Matt Skjonsby, Board Member

Scandia Valley Township

Town Board Members:

Terry Sandstrom	575-3262
Dale Borgstrom.....	746-3823
Al Card.....	575-3029
Ian Newkirk.....	746-3870
Mike Rosvold	575-2735
Kathie Headley (Clerk)	575-2847
Sara Meier (Treasurer)	575-2783
Scandia Valley Refuse and Recycle Center.....	575-2438
Summer Hours	
Wednesday & Sunday	12:30 - 5:30 P.M.

Lake Alexander Lake Improvement District Board Members

Dr. Bill Faber, Chairman	575-2338
Ron Wieber, Treasurer	575-3326
Tom Bjorge	575-2553
Chuck Schiemo	575-3169
John Piper	575-3384

LAPOA Membership

What's new on Lake Alexander? Margaret Flolid has resigned after 40 years of service on the LAPOA Board. Thank you Margaret for all your years of service. Alice Sunde is the interim Treasurer and you can mail your dues to her at 5755 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443. Thanks Alice for taking over on short notice.

The LAPOA will be having a Clean-Up Day in August. IF this years dues are paid, there will be a reduction on the fees, so start looking at your old electronics/junk and plan to get rid of it this August. Just another reason to become a LAPOA Member!

Look what your \$1.25/month membership buys you...

- Mailing of all Lake Association Newsletters to keep you informed on "what's happening".
- A collective voice that cares about our water quality.
- Contact and a voice with the Morrison County Planning and Zoning Board.
- Opportunity to vote on issues affecting the lakes health.
- An Active advocate to the Lake Improvement District (LID) to enhance the quality of Lake Alexander for it's property owners.
- The LAPOA improves the value of your property by having a unified voice and acts with its members best interest in a democratic fashion.
- If you are not a member, please consider joining. If you are a member, we look forward to your continued support and encourage you to get involved.
- Membership dues are \$15.00/year or \$1.25/month. A great value in this economy!

Look forward to seeing YOU at the Annual Meeting on July 18, 2015.

Dave Schleichert
LAPOA Board Member

Fall Clean-Up Day

Once again the Property Owners Association is planning a Fall Clean-up day. This clean up day will be open to all residents in the area, but if you are a current member of the Lake Alexandria Property Owners Association you will receive a \$10.00 credit on your total bill. At this time our tentative date is August 22nd. After our last clean-up day many people asked us to have the next one before Labor Day. At this time the items we hope to be able to take are: large household items like recliners or sofas. White goods like old stoves or refrigerators. We also hope to be able to take old tires and electronics. We should have all the details at our annual meeting in July. We will also post the details to our website as soon as we have everything in place.

Alice Sunde
Chairperson



Morrison County Local Water Plan Presents:
Lake Improvement Districts Annual Mtg
and

LAKE AND RIVER DAY

for all shoreline owners

Saturday, July 11th

9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. Meet with LID Boards

LID Board will have the opportunity to discuss LID concerns and upcoming plans with Water Planning partners

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. All Lake Residents

Presentations by:

DNR Fisheries, DNR Waters and Ecological Resources, Morrison County Planning and Zoning, Morrison SWCD

Topics:

Invasive Species, Septics, Ordinances for Shoreline Alterations, Clean Water Funding, Lake Monitoring, Local Water Plan Update.

This is an outstanding opportunity for all shoreland owners in the county to learn of new opportunities and rules for the best management of one's property. The event is free and open to the public.

Scandia Valley Townhall

Refreshments Provided